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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/782,089

02/12/2001

James B. Carroll JR.

P/12-816

9721

2352

7590

01/25/2005

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EXAMINER

ST CYR, DANIEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/782,089

Applicant(s)

CARROLL ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel St.Cyr

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the applicant amendment filed 11/10/04 in which independent claims 1 and 7 were amended.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Falcoff et al, US Patent No. 4,403,866, in view of Phillips et al, US Patent No. 6,241,858.

Falcoff et al disclose a process for making paints comprising: an interference effect pigment reactor 13; a flow cell in communication with the reactor adapted to receive and orient a sample of pigment from the reactor; and a colorimeter, interface with said flow cell for measuring the characteristics of the flow cell sample, such as L\*, a\* and b\* values of the paint being prepared. (see figure 1, col. 3, line 49 to col. 4, line 10). With respect to the an interference effect pigment reactor capable of receiving a slurry of platy substrate and coating a hydrous layer

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onto said platy substrate to form a pigment, the pigment reactor 13 is capable of receiving (the system is structure as such), the specify method of forming the pigment is very common as admitted by the applicant (see page 1, line 22 to page 2, line 1). Therefore, an artisan would have motivated to employ the well-known method to form the pigment, which would facilitate the process buy using known method.

Falcoff et al teach that it is possible to determine a spectral curve of a color with a spectrometer, but fail to disclose or fairly suggest using goniospectrophotometer for evaluating the light reflected from the pigment of the flow cell.

Phillips et al disclose a method and apparatus for producing enhanced interference pigments comprising: means for establishing color difference by measuring the  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$  and  $b^*$  values of the light beams, wherein a goniospectrophotometer is used at angles 10-60 degrees for taking the measurements; a very thin coating of mica (about 1 mil thick) is used on the surface material of  $TiO_2$  (high refractive index material) to produce the best chromatic colors (see col. 17, lines 12-65 and col. 18, lines 28-51).

In view of the Phillips et al's teachings, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Falcoff et al to employ a goniospectrophotometer in lieu of the colorimeter for describing color shifting pigments (i.e. light interference pigment) and using a thin coat of mica for producing better chromatic colors. Such modification would make the system more effective wherein measurements would be taken at multi-angle geometry so that comparison of pigments is simulated to provide more accurate results. Such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught by Falcoff et al.

*Response to Arguments*

5. Applicant's arguments filed 11/10/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. (see examiner remarks).

**REMARKS:**

In response to the applicant that Falcoff et al do not disclose a reactor, the examiner respectfully disagrees. The item 13 of Falcoff et al serves the same function as the claimed reactor, its function is to process the paint so as to form specific pigment for color matching. With respect to coating a hydrous layer onto said platy substrate to form the pigment, the applicant has admitted that such process is very common in the art, which therefore, obvious. (see page 1, line 22 to page 2, line 1).

In response to the applicant argument that Phillips et al fail to disclose the continuous method, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Phillips et al continuously monitor the content by taking measurement at different angles until a proper match is achieved. The applicant argument is not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

*Conclusion*

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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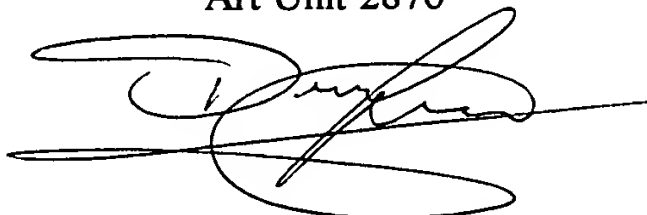
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel St.Cyr whose telephone number is 571-272-2407. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Daniel St.Cyr  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2876

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel St.Cyr', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.